

# What do I need?

Page 3 or 4 printed on A4 card

Natural materials  
e.g. leaves, feathers or dried flowers

Felt-tip pens

Glue

Scissors

Elastic cord



# What do I do?

Look at page 2 to learn about the Mexican festival *Día de los Muertos*, or 'Day of the Dead'.

Choose which of the masks on pages 3 to 4 you want to use. Cut the mask out, then carefully use your scissors to pierce small holes in the dots on each side.

Colour in your mask with your felt-tip pens. Use colours such as red, orange, yellow, purple, pink, white and black, as these are typical colours seen on the *calaveras*.

Now stick your feathers, leaves, flowers or other materials around the edge of your mask to add a touch of nature.

Once you're happy with your mask, thread a length of elastic cord through the two holes, securing it in place using double knots.

Try your mask on for size - you may need to loosen or tighten the cord to make it fit you.

Finally, to make your mask more functional cut some small holes into the eyes so you can see through.







# Día de los Muertos

*Día de los Muertos*, or 'Day of the Dead,' takes place in Mexico on the 1st and 2nd November each year. It stems from All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on the same dates in the Christian calendar. Yet, in Mexico the holiday has become one of celebration, not of mourning.

Family and friends join together to celebrate the lives of those they have lost, retelling stories and funny anecdotes of their relatives' lives. Many families build an *ofrenda*, (small altar) in their home to arrange objects and photos of their loved ones in a ritual display. It's also traditional for families to lay out some of their favourite foods and drinks as gifts to the dead.

A popular Día de los Muertos image is the *calavera*, or skull - often seen in the form of decorative masks and confectionery.



Image by Eneas de Troya | <https://www.flickr.com/photos/eneas/4072192627/>  
 Image by Alejandro Linares Garcia | [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day\\_of\\_the\\_Dead#/media/File:CemetarioAlmolyaRio1995.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day_of_the_Dead#/media/File:CemetarioAlmolyaRio1995.jpg)  
 Image by Jaredzimmerman (WMF) | [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day\\_of\\_the\\_Dead#/media/File:Día\\_de\\_los\\_Muertos\\_Celebration\\_in\\_Mission\\_District\\_of\\_San\\_Francisco,\\_CA.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Day_of_the_Dead#/media/File:Día_de_los_Muertos_Celebration_in_Mission_District_of_San_Francisco,_CA.jpg)





